

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

January 28, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by Chairman Murray at 5:03 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28th, 2025, and was held in-person at the Staples City Hall council chamber. Present were Commissioners Bendson, Case, Gerard, and Murray. With Bjerga, Gertken, and Tappe marked as absent. Also present were Mark Anderson of the Staples World, SEDA Executive Director Lucas Wakefield, and the Staples City Administrator, Jerel Nelsen.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and Bendson moved to approve the agenda as written. Gerard seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Minutes of the November 26th, 2024, meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Case and seconded by Gerard to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

SEDA board reviewed the request from Norston Fontaine, former president and owner of Stacker 3D, that he be allowed to rent the space Stacker 3D has occupied in the industrial park building on a month-to-month basis for a period of five to six months with the intention of starting a new business and operating it out of that same space some time in the near future. Stacker 3D was sold to another company and is no longer a going concern. Previously, the financial committee of the SEDA board had reviewed the request and had given initial approval ahead of the SEDA board meeting in order to provide a clear answer to Mr. Fontaine prior to the lapse of his previous lease agreement. The rent for this temporary arrangement was agreed to be \$600/mo. Case moved to approve the motion. Gerard seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

SEDA board reviewed an invoice from Strateligent for \$5,000 for planning and visioning services rendered during the community planning process of the Blandin Leadership Boost Grant which was awarded to the Staples EDA. The arrangement and agreement was acknowledged by all parties as being ad hoc and it was agreed by the board members that in the future – all contractual agreements should be in writing prior to work beginning. Bendson moved to approve payment of the invoice as presented. Gerard seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

SEDA board discussed ongoing efforts to attract new businesses to town. Case suggested that SEDA should be more proactive in courting potential businesses which might expand into or relocate to Staples. It was discussed that SEDA staff may request approval to attend trade shows and other venues wherein it would be possible to meet potential business owners and decision makers. Murray requested that Wakefield present the board with a possible list of such venues.

Wakefield updated the board on the status of the Small Cities grant being deployed in the City of Staples as well as on the Blandin Foundation Leadership Boost Grant.

A motion was made by Gerard seconded by Bendon to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Vote in favor was unanimous. Carried.

Lucas Wakefield, Secretary